| 1 2 | Fred W. Schwinn (SBN 225575) fred.schwinn@sjconsumerlaw.com Jovanna R. Longo (SBN 251491) jovanna.longo@sjconsumerlaw.com | | |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| 3 | CONSUMER LAW CENTER, INC. 12 South First Street, Suite 1014 San Jose, California 95113-2418 | | |
| 5 | Telephone Number: (408) 294-6100 Facsimile Number: (408) 294-6190 Attorney for Plaintiff Blow | | |
| 6 7 8 | Attorney for Plaintiff RAMONA PATRICIA CARDON NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA Attorney for Plaintiff RICHARD W. WIEKING SAN JOSE SAN JOSE ATTORNO PLANT OF CALIFORNIA | | |
| 9 | IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT | | |
| 10 | FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN JOSE DIVISION | | |
| 11 | RAMONA PATRICIA CARDON, Cale 108 02821 | | |
| 12 | Fiantin, | | |
| 13 | v. COMPLAINT | | |
| 14 | PROFESSIONAL RECOVERY SERVICES. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL PORTON OF THE PROFESSIONAL RECOVERY SERVICES. | | |
| 15 | INC., a New Jersey corporation, 15 United States Code § 1692 et seq. California Civil Code § 1788 et seq. California Civil Code § 1812.700 et seq. | | |
| 16 | Defendant. California Civil Code § 1812.700 et seq. | | |
| 17 | Plaintiff, RAMONA PATRICIA CARDON (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), based on | | |
| 18 | information and belief and investigation of counsel, except for those allegations which pertain to the | | |
| 19 | named Plaintiff or her attorneys (which are alleged on personal knowledge), hereby makes the | | |
| 20 | following allegations: | | |
| 21 | I. INTRODUCTION | | |
| 22 | 1. This is an action for statutory damages, attorney fees and costs brought by an | | |
| 23 | individual consumer for Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. | | |
| 24 | § 1692, et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA"), and the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, | | |
| 25 | California Civil Code § 1788 et seq. (hereinafter "RFDCPA") which prohibit debt collectors from | | |
| 26 | engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices. Plaintiff also seeks statutory damages, attorney | | |
| 27 | fees and costs for the Defendant's violation of Cal. Civil Code §§ 1812.700-1812.702. | | |
| 28 | 2. According to 15 U.S.C. § 1692: | | |
| | COMPLAINT | | |

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- There is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt a. collection practices by many debt collectors. Abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy.
- b. Existing laws and procedures for redressing these injuries are inadequate to protect consumers.
- Means other than misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices are c. available for the effective collection of debts.
- d. Abusive debt collection practices are carried on to a substantial extent in interstate commerce and through means and instrumentalities of such commerce. Even where abusive debt collection practices are purely intrastate in character, they nevertheless directly affect interstate commerce.
- It is the purpose of this title to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt e. collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses.

II. JURISDICTION

- 3. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), 28 U.S.C. § 1337, and supplemental jurisdiction exists for the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.
- 4. This action arises out of Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA").

III. VENUE

Venue in this judicial district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in 5. that a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this judicial district. Venue is also proper in this judicial district pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), in that the Defendant transacts business in this judicial district and the violations of the FDCPA complained of occurred in this judicial district.

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IV. INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT

6. This lawsuit should be assigned to the San Jose Division of this Court because a substantial part of the events or omissions which gave rise to this lawsuit occurred in Santa Clara County.

V. PARTIES

- 7. Plaintiff, RAMONA PATRICIA CARDON (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), is a natural person residing in Santa Clara County, California. Plaintiff is a "consumer" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3) and a "debtor" within the meaning of Cal. Civil Code § 1788.2(h).
- 8. Defendant, PROFESSIONAL RECOVERY SERVICES, INC., (hereinafter "PROFESSIONAL"), is a New Jersey corporation engaged in the business of collecting debts in this state with its principal place of business located at: 221 Laurel Road, Suite 350, Voorhees, New Jersey 08043. PROFESSIONAL may be served as follows: Professional Recovery Services, Inc., c/o CT Corporation System, 818 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California 90017. The principal business of PROFESSIONAL is the collection of debts using the mails and telephone, and PROFESSIONAL regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another. PROFESSIONAL is a "debt collector" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) and Cal. Civil Code § 1788.2(c). PROFESSIONAL is a third-party debt collector subject to the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.

VI. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 9. On a date or dates unknown to Plaintiff, Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation, namely a credit card account issued by HSBC Bank and bearing account number XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-3354 (hereinafter "the alleged debt"). The alleged debt was incurred primarily for personal, family or household purposes and is therefore a "debt" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5) and a "consumer debt" as that term is defined by Cal. Civil Code § 1788.2(f).
- Sometime thereafter on a date unknown to Plaintiff, the debt was consigned, 10. placed, or otherwise transferred to Defendant for collection from Plaintiff.
- Thereafter, Defendant sent a collection letter to Plaintiff which is a 11. "communication" in an attempt to collect a debt as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

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- A true and accurate copy of the collection letter from PROFESSIONAL to 12. Plaintiff is attached hereto, marked Exhibit "1," and by this reference is incorporated herein.
 - 13. The collection letter (Exhibit "1") is dated July 20, 2007.
- Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that the collection letter 14. (Exhibit "1") was Defendant's initial communication with Plaintiff in connection with the collection of the debt owed to HSBC Bank.
 - The collection letter (Exhibit "1") states: 15.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of the debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notice this office within 30 days from receiving this notice, that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request this office within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor. if different from the original creditor.

VII. CLAIMS

FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 16. Plaintiff brings the first claim for relief against Defendant under the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 1692.
- 17. Plaintiff repeats, realleges, and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 21 above.
- 18. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- Defendant, PROFESSIONAL, is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 19. the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- The financial obligation allegedly owed to HSBC Bank by Plaintiff is a "debt" 20. as that term is defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- The collection letter (Exhibit "1") described above violates the FDCPA. The 21. violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Defendant misrepresented Plaintiff's right to obtain a copy of the a. debt verification or judgment against her, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§

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1692e and 1692e(10).

- Defendant has further violated the FDCPA in the following respects: 22.
 - Defendant failed to send Plaintiff a written notice containing a a. statement that if Plaintiff notifies Defendant in writing within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, Defendant would obtain verification of the debt and that a copy of the verification would be mailed to Plaintiff, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4); and
 - b. Defendant failed to send Plaintiff a written notice containing a statement that upon Plaintiff's written request, Defendant would provide Plaintiff with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5).
- Defendant's acts as described above were done intentionally with the purpose 23. of coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt.
- As a result of Defendant's violations of the FDCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to an 24. award of statutory damages, costs and reasonable attorneys fees, pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§ 1692k.

ROSENTHAL FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- Plaintiff brings the second claim for relief against Defendant under the 25. Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("RFDCPA"), California Civil Code §§ 1788-1788.33.
- 26. Plaintiff repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 30 above.
- Plaintiff is a "debtor" as that term is defined by the RFDCPA, Cal. Civil Code 27. § 1788.2(h).
- Defendant, PROFESSIONAL, is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 28. the RFDCPA, Cal. Civil Code § 1788.2(c).
- PROFESSIONAL is a third-party debt collector subject to the federal Fair 29. Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seg.

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- 30. The financial obligation allegedly owed to HSBC Bank by Plaintiff is a "consumer debt" as that term is defined by the RFDCPA, Cal. Civil Code § 1788.2(f).
- 31. The collection letter (Exhibit "1") described above violates the RFDCPA. The violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Defendant misrepresented Plaintiff's right to obtain a copy of the debt verification or judgment against her, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692e(10), as incorporated by Cal. Civil Code § 1788.17.
 - 32. Defendant has further violated the RFDCPA in the following respects:
 - a. Defendant failed to send Plaintiff a written notice containing a statement that if Plaintiff notifies Defendant *in writing* within the thirty-day period that the debt, or any portion thereof, is disputed, Defendant would obtain verification of the debt and that a copy of the verification would be mailed to Plaintiff, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(4), as incorporated by Cal. Civil Code § 1788.17;
 - b. Defendant failed to send Plaintiff a written notice containing a statement that upon Plaintiff's written request, Defendant would provide Plaintiff with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(a)(5), as incorporated by Cal. Civil Code § 1788.17.
- 33. Defendant's acts as described above were done willfully and knowingly with the purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt, within the meaning of Cal. Civil Code § 1788.30(b).
- 34. As a result of Defendant's willful and knowing violations of the RFDCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of a statutory penalty in an amount not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1788.30(b).
- 35. As a result of the Defendant's violations of the RFDCPA, the Plaintiff is entitled to an award of statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C.§ 1692k(a)(2)(A), as incorporated by Cal. Civil Code §1788.17.

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CONSUMER LAW CENTER, INC.

By: /s/ Jovanna R. Longo / Esq. Jovanna R. Longo / Esq.

Attorney for Plaintiff

RAMONA PATRICIA CARDON

| 1 | CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO CIVIL L.R. 3-16 | | |
|----|---|--|--|
| 2 | Pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-16, the undersigned certifies that as of this date, other than the | | |
| 3 | named parties, there is no such interest to report. | | |
| 4 | /s/ Jovanna R. Longo (Nanna Jone) Jovanna R. Longo, Esq. | | |
| 5 | Jovanna II. Bongo, Esp. | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | <u>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</u> | | |
| 8 | PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, RAMONA PATRICIA CARDON, hereby demands | | |
| 9 | a trial by jury of all triable issues of fact in the above-captioned case. | | |
| 10 | /s/ Jovanna R. Longo Jovanna Longo Jovanna R. Longo, Esq. | | |
| 11 | Jovanna R. Longo, Esq. | | |
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| | COMPLAINT | | |

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Document 1

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VOORHEES ... 08043 PHONE: (800) 309-8000

P.O. BOX 1880

P.O. BOX 1880 VOORHEES NJ 08043-7880

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#BWNLCSV s-ONPREC10 L-001 A-6463319 #064633190# P0BT4F00616032 I23900 RAMONA CARDON 893 LENZEN AVE APT 314 SAN JOSE CA 95126-2750

PROFESSIONAL RECOVERY SERVICES INC. P.O. BOX 1880
VOORHEES NJ 08043

07/20/07

Account #: 6463319

Client # : 544045503011335 Amount Due:

Client : HSBC Bank

> Detach Upper Portion And Return With Payment >

*** IMPORTANT COLLECTION NOTICE ***

ACCOUNT #: 6463319

RE: Your account with our client

HSBC Bank

SERVICE DATE: 08/18/05 AMOUNT DUE: \$ 608.68

Dear RAMONA CARDON,

Please be advised that the account listed above has been referred to us by the above creditor in the amount of \$ 608.68 representing the balance due for services rendered and accepted.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt is valid. If you notify this office within 30 days from receiving this notice, that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request this office within 30 days after receiving this notice, this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

Should you contact us in writing for verification of this debt, we will cease further collection activity until we provide you with the verification.

Very Truly Yours, *John Train*JOHN TRAIN

Senior Claims Adjuster

This communication from a debt collector is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

EXHIBIT 1

Certain State Laws require us to notify consumers, of those states, of their following rights. This list does not contain a complete list of rights consumers have under Federal and State Law.

CALIFORNIA NOTICE:

"The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov

COLORADO NOTICE:

"FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE WWW.AGO.STATE.CO.US/CADC/CADCMAIN.CFM."
COLORADO LICENSE # 987119

MASSACHUSETTS NOTICE:

"NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS: YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE A WRITTEN OR ORAL REQUEST THAT TELEPHONE CALLS REGARDING YOUR DEBT NOT BE MADE TO YOU AT YOUR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT. ANY SUCH ORAL REQUEST WILL BE VALID FOR ONLY TEN DAYS UNLESS YOU PROVIDE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF THE REQUEST POSTMARKED OR DELIVERED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF SUCH REQUEST. YOU MAY TERMINATE THIS REQUEST BY WRITING TO THE DEBT COLLECTOR."

MINNESOTA NOTICE:

"This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce."

NEW YORK NOTICE:

"New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 1027246"

NORTH CAROLINA NOTICE:

"North Carolina Department of Insurance Permit Number 3420"

TENNESSEE NOTICE:

"This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance."

WISCONSIN NOTICE:

"This collection agency is licensed by the Office of the Administrator of the Division of Banking P.O. Box 7876, Madison, Wisconsin 53707"

P.O. BOX 1880 VOORHEES NJ 08043-7880

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#BWNLCSV S-ONPREC10 L-001 A-6463318 #064633190# P0BT4F00616032 I23900 RAMONA CARDON 893 LENZEN AVE APT SAN JOSE CA 95126-2750

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PRESORTED US POSTAGE \$00.34



Case 5:08-cv-02821-JW Document 1-2 Filed 06/05/2008 Page 1 of 1 The JS 44 civil cover slow and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. 1 mis form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE TWO OF THE FORM.) I. (a) **PLAINTIFFS** DEFENDANTS RAMONA PATRICIA CARDON PROFESSIONAL RECOVERY SERVICES, INC. (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Santa Clara County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED. (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Attorneys (If Known) E-FLING Consumer Law Center, Inc. 12 South First Street, Suite 1014 San Jose, California 95113-2418 II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZ OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF U.S. Government ★ 3 Federal Question Citizen of This State 1 Incorporated or Principal Place Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party) of Business In This State U.S. Government 4 Diversity Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) of Business In Another State Citizen or Subject of a 3 Foreign Nation ☐ 6 Foreign Country IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) CONTRACT TORTS FORFEITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES 110 Insurance PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY 1610 Agriculture 1422 Appeal 28 USC 158 400 State Reapportionment 120 Marine 310 Airplane 1362 Personal Injury 620 Other Food & Drug 423 Withdrawal 7410 Antitrust 130 Miller Act 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractice ☐625 Drug Related Seizure 28 USC 157 430 Banks and Banking 140 Negotiable Instrument Liability 65 Personal Injury of Property 21 USC 881 1450 Commerce 150 Recovery of Overpayment 630 Liquor Laws 320 Assault, Libel & Product Liability 1460 Deportation PROPERTY RIGHTS & Enforcement of Judgment Slander Asbestos Personal **1**640 R.R. & Truck 1470 Racketeer Influenced and 151 Medicare Act 1820 Copyrights 330 Federal Employers Injury Product 650 Airline Regs. Corrupt Organizati 330 Patent 152 Recovery of Defaulted Liability Liability 7660 Occupational ¥ 480 Consumer Credit 840 Trademark Student Loans 340 Marine Safety/Health PERSONAL PROPERTY 3490 Cable/Sat TV (Excl Veterans) 345 Marine Product 1690 Other 3810 Selective Service 370 Other Fraud 153 Recovery of Overpayment Liability 371 Truth in Lending 850 Securities/Commod LABOR SOCIAL SECURITY of Veteran's Benefits 350 Motor Vehicle Exchange 1380 Other Personal 160 Stockholders' Suits 355 Motor Vehicle ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards **]**861 HIA (1395ff) 3875 Customer Challenge Property Damage 190 Other Contract Product Liability Act 3862 Black Lung (923) 12 USC 3410 7385 Property Damage 195 Contract Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 890 Other Statutory Actions 3863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) Product Liability 196 Franchise 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting 891 Agricultural Acts 1864 SSID Title XVI PRISONER & Disclosure Act 892 Economic Stabilization Act REAL PROPERTY 865 RSI (405(g)) CIVIL RIGHTS PETITIONS 740 Railway Labor Act 393 Environmental Matters 210 Land Condemnation 790 Other Labor Litigation 394 Energy Allocation Act 3441 Voting 1510 Motions to Vacate 791 Empl Ret. Inc. 220 Foreclosure 442 Employment 1895 Freedom of Information Sentence FEDERAL TAX SUITS 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus: Security Act Act 3900Appeal of Fee 240 Torts to Land Accommodations 1870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff 1530 General 245 Tort Product Liability 444 Welfare Determination or Defendant) 535 Death Penalty 290 All Other Real Property 445 Amer, w/Disabilities Under Equal Access 1540 Mandamus & Other **IMMIGRATION** IRS-Third Party to Justice 550 Civil Rights 26 USC 7609 Employment 462 Naturalization Application 1950 Constitutionality of 1446 Amer. w/Disabilities ■ 555 Prison Condition 463 Habeas Corpus State Statutes Other Alien Detainee 440 Other Civil Rights 3465 Other Immigration Actions V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Transferred from Appeal to District ■ 1 Original 2 Removed from 3 Remanded from 4 Reinstated or 5 another district ☐ 6 Multidistrict 7 Judge from Proceeding State Court Appellate Court Reonened (specify) Litigation Magistrate Judgment Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. sec 1692, et seq VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause: Unlawful debt collection practices VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION **DEMAND \$** CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: COMPLAINT: UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 JURY DEMAND: Yes No PLEASE REFER TO CIVIL L.R. 3-12 CONCERNING REQUIREMENT TO FILE VIII. RELATED CASE(S) "NOTICE OF RELATED CASE". IF ANY IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (CIVIL L.R. 3-2) (PLACE AND "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY) SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND I SAN JOSE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD